

27 February 1985

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

HM The Queen opens the new offices of the Disabled Living Foundation, London W9 and the Queen's Park Health Centre, London W10

Prime Minister presents Gold Star Awards given by the Daily Star; opens Technology 2000 exhibition

President Chernenko scheduled to deliver speech accepting nomination for election to Supreme Soviet

Minister without Portfolio leads UK trade mission to China and Hong Kong (to 12 March)

TUC General Council meets

EC Dooge Committee, Brussels (to 28 February)

EC Economic and Social committee Plenary Session, Brussels (to 28 February)

Launch of drugs misuse campaign

Football: Northern Ireland v England (World Cup qualifier), Belfast

STATISTICS

DOE: Construction - new orders (Dec)

SO: Survey of private sector inter-war housing in Scotland

DTP: New motor vehicle registrations (Jan)

PUBLICATIONS

DEM: Employment Gazette (21.00)

HMT: Economic Progress Report

PAY

DEM: Municipal Airport Manual Workers; (1,159); claim for parity with BA and Airport Authority Staff which would mean increase of 13 per cent; settlement date 1.1.85

PARLIAMENTCommons

Questions: Trade and Industry; Environment

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Town and Country Planning (Protection of Trees and Woodlands) (Amendment) (Mr R Freeman)
Opposition Day Debate: Debate on local authority capital expenditure
Representation of the People Bill: Conclusion of Remaining Stages
Adjournment Debate
The British engineers detained in Nigeria (Mr M Bruce)

Select Committees

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Subject: Famine in Africa

Witness: Dr K Griffin

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: Tourism in the United Kingdom

Witnesses: The English Tourist Board (at 10.30); The Scottish Tourist Board (11.15); The Welsh Tourist Board (11.12 noon)

DEFENCE

Subject: Defence Commitments and Resources: Nuclear Systems

Witness: Ministry of Defence

ENERGY

Subject: United Kingdom Gas Depletion Policy

Witnesses: B P; Conoco

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: The Manpower Services Commission's Corporate Plan 1985-89

Witness: The Manpower Services Commission

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Appropriation accounts, Northern Ireland 1983-84

Witnesses: Mr S Tate, Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Industrial Development Board; Dr M Haves, Permanent Secretary, Department of Health and Social Security

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Misuse of drugs, with special reference to treatment and rehabilitation of misusers of hard drugs

Witnesses: Dr P H Connell, Chairman, Medical Working Group on Drug Dependence; National and Regional Aid for Addicts and Family (ADFAM)

JOINT COMMITTEE

Petition Against Okehampton By-pass

Special Procedure Orders

Lords

Short Debate on the situation of the refugees in the Third World

Short Debate on the recent developments in natural medicine and the need for an independent register of qualified practitioners based on the register of the Institute for Complementary Medicine.

UQ on whether, in the light of HMG's response to the 25th Report of the Public Accounts Committee (HC 127), they will outline the steps which they intend to take to ensure that there can be no repetition of the squandering of tax revenues on the De Lorean enterprise.

PRESS DIGEST£/\$/ECONOMY

- £ perks up late in the day as dollar slid following remarks by Paul Volcker, chairman of the Fed, and good UK trade figures.
- Mirror says relief came when speculators began to take their dollar profits.
- D/Star says you admitted you were virtually helpless to stop the pound's nose-dive.
- Sun leader says we must have tax cuts - this may be our last chance this Parliament, and the Chancellor's last chance, too; John Vincent, columnist, says Kinnock and Labour have nothing to say or offer on unemployment beyond ritual denunciation.
- Mirror says the one dollar pound now looks inevitable. There is nothing the Government can do about it. When it abandoned exchange controls it abandoned the only effective weapon. The march of the dollar is bad news for employment, prices and taxation.
- James McMillan, in Express, believes the law of gravity also applies to currencies - what goes up must come down.
- Mail has the £ staging a fighting comeback; under heading "Now she tells us" leader says it is a pity you and Reagan did not enshrine your agreement that the best US contribution to the dollar problem lay in cutting budget deficit in public communique. The understanding was too tacit by half.
- Telegraph says the real hazards of the current level of the £ are imported inflation, still higher interest rates and the greatest speculation fever. We could well be witnessing the final burst of fuel before the rocket burns out. Telegraph City Page nonetheless reinforced by recent events in its expectation of a tight Budget.
- Guardian saw the dollar cartwheeling yesterday and this (somehow) wrong-footed you in the House. Ian Aitken says the sterling crisis dented your US triumph.
- FT notes that North Sea oil spot prices fell sharply for third day running on fears coal strike is coming to an end. It said Volcker questioned whether official intervention had been forceful enough to be effective.

COAL STRIKE

- More than half miners expected to be back at work today; Times claims strike is in danger of collapse in Yorkshire and South Wales. Sun says only another 280 more need to break the strike to take those working over 50%. 1464 returned yesterday.
- South Derbyshire thought ready to follow Notts and drop the overtime ban.
- B/Rail planning to go over rail unions' heads and tell men at mass meeting their jobs are at risk unless coal blacking ends.
- Pleas for NUM executive tomorrow to look at situation 'realistically'.
- Meanwhile, Liz Taylor, actress, offers help to Women against Pit Closures
- John Vincent, in Sun, says when the strike is over Norman Willis, TUC, will be able to say he did his best. He's also shown qualities people can't see much sign of elsewhere in Labour politics - decency, good nature, reliability and dislike of conflict.
- Mail has Scargill in retreat, talking about the strike only in the past tense and saying he was betrayed.
- Telegraph says when more than 50% are back NCB could declare the strike over, and there are major signs of it collapsing; also reports that NCB is pushing ahead with management reorganisation involving greater devolution of authority. Charges of unlawful assembly against 21 miner dismissed in Notts.
- Guardian like the Mail notes Scargill's speech last night as that of a defiant man at the end of a long dispute. Inside it says surrender talk grows in coalfields. Peter Bruinvels, as head of Law and Order Society seeking to bring a private prosecution against Scargill for sedition. Guardian leader says the strike is drawing to a painful close. The miners are now paying for the unreality of the position adopted by the trade union movement these past 12 months when it became apparent NUM could not bring out one third of its members.
- Times says miners' strike is near collapse in militant areas. Morale in coalfields is falling like a stone.

INDUSTRY

- Ford gets £37m order for 7000 cars from Avis rental.
- Prince Charles urges Institute of Directors to help get rid of slums.
- Littlewoods stores introducing shopping for electrical goods via Prestel.
- Mail feature on the saving of Govan shipyard with the abandonment of virtually all the old working practices.
- Natwest joins Channel Tunnel group.
- Brewers to spend £2021m on improvements to pubs over next three years to win back trade.

LOCAL AUTHORITY

- Express leader says Patrick Jenkin can be well satisfied having won Parliamentary approval for rate capping. Ratepayers will have reason to be grateful to him for gamely sticking to his task.
- Guardian says a new financial trick to get round curbs on local authority capital spending is likely to cause this overspending to exceed £1bn.

INNER CITY ACTION

- No coverage for initiative in pops. Telegraph puts format of 5 city action teams on its front page.
- Guardian gives it half a column inside, with a fairly full exposition of the concept.

GOVERNMENT AIMS

- Times on front page says you recommitted yourself to tax cuts.
- FT gives it half a column and says you put the stress on freedom of choice.
- Telegraph gives the Written Answer two thirds of a column on back page, leading with further evidence of your admiration for the American economy.

EDUCATION

- Mrs Kinnock featured prominently as among the teachers on strike - Sun sees her new role as the pin up girl of all those trade unionists who put self interest ahead of duty. And John Vincent, Sun columnist, accuses teachers of using children as hostages.
- Mirror reports Mrs Kinnock as saying teachers have been forced into the strike.
- Express says NUT is to ballot its members on ending all supervision.
- Mail says Mrs Kinnock puts the teachers' case with charm and good humour. Keith Joseph mishandled the pay talks. 4% offer is not princely. But none of this is sufficient justification for teachers taking it out of children when bargaining process is not exhausted.
- Telegraph says General Secretary of NAS/UWT predicted industrial action into next year in pursuit of full wage claim.
- Guardian says this is not Mrs Kinnock's strike; the teachers have a very powerful grievance they are now a relatively poorly paid group of workers. It is Sir Keith Joseph's responsibility to get this dispute out of the trenches.
- NUT complains that an MoD recruiting calendar is racist because it has only one non-white VC pictured on it - and earns a slap from the Express.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Government to give £500,000 extra to campaign to persuade women not to smoke.
- DHSS reports that as much as 40% of hospital food is wasted and has to be thrown away.

DEFENCE

- Peter Jenkins, in the Guardian, notes the different positions taken by you and Mr Heseltine on SDI which he foresees as causing trouble across the Atlantic.
- Geoffrey Smith, in Times, on a slightly different talk about your visit to Washington says you were creating the conditions in which the special relationship stands the best chance of being effective.

CIVIL SERVICE CODE

- The launch of new guidance to Civil Servants on their responsibilities and relations with Ministers not covered in D/Star or Sun. Mirror under heading "Leaks warning to civil servants" says it is the first time in 30 years the Government has felt the need to take this action.
- Express describes it as a new loyalty code - a hard line document. Mail has small piece - "Be loyal to Ministers". Blunt message is carry out orders or quit.
- Coverage greater in qualities. Telegraph puts it on front page/ ^{and 1 1/2 cols inside} Whitehal given code of loyalty. Leader says to come the heavy uncle after one signal instance of disloyalty might have seemed more likely to stir resentment. But these misgivings have been allayed by Robert Armstrong's handling. He must be a very sensitive Civil Servant who resents the tenor of his guidance. And it is well to be reminded of the virtues of confidences.
- Guardian sees it as a "Yes, Minister code" which offers no concessions to those, like Ponting, who argue they have a wider loyalty than to the Government of the day.
- Times P1 - Civil Servants' duty is to Ministers. Dr Oonagh McDonald find it typical it should have been produced without consultation and says it is too narrow.
- FT: Conscience warning to Civil Service.

MEDIA

- BBC now proposing a licence for every set, according to D/Star, to boost revenue.
- Alasdair Milne says the Government efficiency inquiry has cleared the BEC of overmanning. Times leader wants you to use licence fee to force BBC to change.
- Douglas Muggerridge, ex-Managing Director of BBC External Services dies.
- Channel 4 calls for lifting of ban on MI5 film and David Steel backs them. Guardian has a leader on it in which it tries to portray the Government's approach to issue as Orwellian 1984-ish.
- Lord Tonypantry comes in for attack from Jim Callaghan in letter to the Times and from Michael Foot for his book.

LAW AND ORDER

- Home Counties rapist, known as The Fox, given six sentences of life imprisonment - judge says he was wicked and depraved beyond description. Turned by hard core pornography. Mail wants legal limits on porn videos.
- Express says The Fox's arrest showed the police at their best - with high technology complementing traditional virtues of patience, dedication and alertness.
- D/Star applauds Home Secretary for persevering with his effort to secure right of appeal against lenient sentences.
- Police patrolling a long section of railway line near Portsmouth because of a sniper's attack on an express Inter-City train.

IRELAND

- Riot police and security forces required in a number of Catholic areas - Strabane, Londonderry and West Belfast.
- Telegraph leader takes New York Times to task for its leader criticising your remarks in Congress Speech on Ireland - "a grotesque distortion of the facts".

USA

- FBI arrest heads of New York's big five Mafia families.

SAUDI ARABIA

- British engineer faces 250 lashes and 2½ years in jail for breaking drinking laws.

NEW ZELAND

- Telegraph says you are firm in the warships row.

FALKLANDS

- Guardian says British and Argentine Parliamentarians in Washington last week drew up proposals which raise hope of better progress to normal relations.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr King makes regional visit to North-East
- DOE: Mr Jenkin addresses Overseas Women's Club, London
- DHSS: Mr Fowler (with Mr Brittan and Mr Mellor (HO)) launches drugs misuse campaign, London; Mr Younger (SO) attends
- HO: Mr Brittan and Mr Mellor attends DHSS anti-drugs campaign launch, London
- OAL: Lord Gowrie visits Southlands Art Centre, West Drayton
- DTI: Mr Tebbit addresses Institute of Exporters 50th anniversary lunch, London
- MAFF: Lord Belstead attends British Grower look ahead conference dinner, Harrogate
- MAFF: Mrs Fenner visits International Food exhibition, London; later attends Sevenoaks Fat Stock Association annual dinner/dance, Maidstone
- DEM: Mr Morrison makes regional visit to Devon and Cornwall
- DEM: Mr Clarke visits Glasgow to join HMS Edinburgh for day sea trials
- DEN: Mr Hunt opens Energy Systems Trade Association exhibition, London
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave attends annual luncheon of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, London; meets Chairman of EC Environment Council, Sig Biandi
- DOE: Lord Avon addresses Greater London Women's Conference on abolition
- DOE: Mr Macfarlane visits Expedition Advisory Centre, London
- DHSS: Mr Clarke opens centre for auditory and speech disorders, Cromwell Hospital; addresses hospital discussion group, St Thomas' Hospital
- DHSS: Mr Whitney visits Hoxton ILD
- ODA: Mr Raison meets President World Bank, Mr Clausen
- SO: Mr Stewart attends launching of Adult Training Awareness Campaign, Edinburgh
- DTI: Mr Fletcher opens States and Property exhibition, London
- DTp: Mr Spicer addresses annual dinner of the Aerodrome Owners' Association, London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- CO: Lord Young begins trade mission to China and Hong Kong (to 12 March)
- FCO: Lady Young departs for Uruguay (to 2 March); Venezuela (to 5 March); Trinidad (to 7 March) then Belize (to 9 March)
- FCO: Mr Rifkind departs for EC Dooze Committee, Brussels (to 28 February)
-

TV AND RADIO

"Brass Tacks"; BBC 2; (20.10): A Patient's Dilemma - choice between orthodox and alternative medicine

"Diverse Reports"; Channel 4; (20.30): Mrs Victoria Gillick tackled by teenagers on her attitudes to sex and contraception

"Analysis"; Radio 4; (20.45): The Second Spanish Armada - look ahead to Spain's joining European Community
